



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## 08/15/2012 Minutes

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of August 15, 2012  
 Approved Sept. 19, 2012

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller, Scott Smith, Doug Greenfield, Jack Johnson and Ron Sender. Joey Glushko, Martha Andrews and Todd Spivak were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

We all introduced ourselves for the benefit of the first time attendee.

\*The minutes were approved after additions and corrections were made.

Guest — Martha Andrews of the American Lung Assoc. of the Northeast. Martha informed us about the Lung Association fund-raising event that will be held this fall on the Cape. The money raised will go to advocating for clean and healthy air. Martha left us with some fliers and she asked us to consider distributing them at Town Day. We discussed ways in which Martha could spread the word about their ride this year. We discussed whether ABAC, as a Town committee, should be distributing information for independent organizations and whether this constitutes an endorsement. There was some concern that doing it for one organization would open the floodgates and we would have to help everyone who comes to us. Stephan pointed out that we haven't exactly been inundated with requests over the years.

We then had a broader discussion of whether we should link our site to commercial sites with information of interest to the local cycling community. The consensus was that we could link directly to the pages of interest on the nonprofit or commercial sites without directing users to the home pages. In addition, we will make an effort to reach out and include local businesses that may have information of interest to the cycling public.

Town Day planning, September 15. We first decided that we should do the scheduling at this meeting. Christopher has all the printed materials and T-shirts. Scott suggested that we talk about the Bicycle Friendly Community Award, the MassCommute Bike Challenge Award and the Hubway system during Town Day. Joey told us that Carol Kowalski does not want to have a program like Hubway endorsed before the master planning process begins so we should not yet talk about Hubway coming to Arlington. Joey said that the town has some interest in participating in the Hubway program but there has as yet been no planning in that direction. We decided that it would be valuable to ask Phil Goff for information on the existing system so that we can distribute that.

We would also like to prepare a display of some kind for the awards we received this year. ABAC members will submit their availability to Christopher via email so that he can devise a schedule for tending the ABAC booth. Scott updated us on some of the topics that will be displayed at the TAC booth including safe routes to school. He also told us that there will be less emphasis this year on the redevelopment projects.

TAC report. Scott told us that the comments about the Mass Ave. Redevelopment Project are back from MassDOT but they haven't been completely evaluated. He told us that the latest plan for the CLAMP project keeps the parking spaces in front of the bank by reducing the size of the travel lanes. There was some discussion about whether this is a viable and safe plan. He has also received partial plans for the flashing lights at the Mill St. crossing of the bike path but thinks that the plans are sketchy and not yet worthy of review. He told us that the light must be installed before the adjacent development is ready for occupancy.

Recreational Trails Grant Program. Joey told us that the Tri-Community RTG Committee has hired a cartographer to work up a base map for the new Bikeway brochure. The consultants have not yet signed a contract so the committee

hopes to have this issue resolved by September. Joey reminded us that the old brochure is still on-line if we get requests for it at Town Day.

Police enforcement Program. Joey thinks that ABAC should reach out to the Police Department so that we can formulate a better summary of the rules of the road. Todd thought that the laws should be presented in a more positive light. Scott suggested that we contact Chief Ryan and have him suggest a contact in the department whom we can work with. We would like to model the flier on existing examples from Boston and Cambridge. Jack, Todd, Christopher, Stephan volunteered to form a working subgroup. Jack suggested that whatever comes out of this should be a joint statement from the Arlington Police and ABAC.

Progress report, Adults on trikes on the sidewalk. Joey and Scott attended a meeting of the Disability Commission. They have assembled information from other communities and Joey sent the information to Mass. Disability Commission for their comments. One idea presented was not a bylaw change but a review program that would result in a process that would issue a placard to be displayed on the vehicle involved. The Commission is going to have a beta test to see how this will be accepted by the public. Scott suggested another approach, a simple statement that motorized wheel chairs and the like are exceptions to the bylaw banning vehicles from the sidewalks.

Bikeway User Counts. Scott showed us a summary of the counts we have taken over the last year. There are some clear trends. Traffic is highest on weekends and during the rush in the morning and evening. The summer counts this year were plagued by bad weather so they were lower than last year. The numbers were sent to the State authorities. Joey told us that the State wants to do counts in September but we have a conflict with Town Day. We discussed other possible dates to do the counts.

"Moving together," articles for the Arlington Advocate. The last communication from the transportation community to the Advocate was a letter to the editor from Scott. Articles have now been written about all the original ideas we had last year. We need to think up new topics and reinvigorate the working group. Scott will contact all the former members of the group and ask if they want to continue to participate. Considering a topic discussed earlier, Jack suggested that the Disabilities Commission participate and write an article about vehicles used by the disabled to improve their mobility and how those vehicles are used.

Semi Annual Presentation to the Board of Selectmen. Scott told us that TAC is presenting in front of the board on September 24 so we would like to present at the same meeting. Joey will check to see if there is room on the agenda. Christopher reminded us that he and Jack need to be reappointed. The presentation will include the announcement of the LAB designation and the MassCommute Bike Challenge Award.

Review Lexington's Bikeway Usage Guidelines. The Town Manager has asked ABAC to formulate guidelines for special uses of the bike path in Arlington. Jack reminded us that the bikeway is a multi-use path open to all. He would not like to see the path used often for special events, especially large events that would make it hard for residents to use the path. The Lexington guidelines limit the number of participants in the group events that are permitted. We discussed the differences in topography between Lexington and Arlington that could affect differences in these guidelines between the towns.

We would like to use the Lexington guidelines as a basis for formulating our own guidelines. We liked the Lexington's emphasis on local use as opposed to large events sponsored from outside the town. Scott suggested that if there are events approved, there should be a requirement that signs, notifying regular users, be posted a week in advance. We will review the Lexington guidelines and establish a working group to write our own guidelines.

Signs on the Bikeway. Joey told us that there has been a request for "yield to pedestrians" signs on the Bikeway. Stephan objected to the idea because it would eliminate any sensitivity about the path being multi-use. Joey suggested that we use the Recreational Trails Grant Program to coordinate with the other towns so that these policies can be made uniform.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.

\*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller

